

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter by inserting the underlined matter and deleting the matter lined through.

1 1-13 (Cancelled)

1 14. (Currently amended) A reinforced structural member comprising:
2 an elongate reinforcing structure formed of high strength expanded metal sheet
3 material defining an array of equally spaced openings therethrough;
4 an exterior body of water-impermeable material positioned about and in contact
5 with said reinforcing structure and extending through the array of equally spaced
6 openings and uniformly connecting the exterior body to said elongate reinforcing
7 structure at said equally spaced openings; and
8 ~~wherein~~ said reinforcing structure being ~~is~~ encapsulated within said exterior body.

1 15. (Original) The reinforced structural member of claim 14, wherein said
2 reinforcing structure is comprised of steel and has a thickness from approximately 0.010
3 to 0.750 inches.

1 16. (Original) The structural member of claim 15, wherein said
2 reinforcing structure further comprises a substantially planar elongate central wall and a
3 pair of side walls extending along opposed lateral edges of said central wall.

1 17. (Original) The structural member of claim 16, wherein each said side
2 wall is substantially perpendicular to said central wall and substantially parallel to other
3 said side wall.

1 18. (Original) The structural member of claim 17, wherein said exterior
2 body is substantially I-shaped in cross section.

1 19. (Original) The structural member of claim 17, wherein said side walls
2 both extend from said central wall in the same direction.

1 20. (Original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein:
2 said exterior body is substantially I-shaped in cross section; and
3 said reinforcing structure is substantially planar and is disposed along a
4 longitudinal plane of said exterior body.

1 21. (Original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein:
2 said reinforcing structure includes a first and a second angled element, each said
3 first and second angled elements including a pair of walls that intersect at an apex, said
4 apexes being disposed adjacent each other; and
5 said exterior body such that said exterior body is substantially square in cross
6 section.

1 22. (Original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein:
2 said reinforcing structure includes a first and a second channeled element, each
3 said first and second channeled elements including a substantially planar central wall and
4 a pair of parallel side walls extending perpendicularly therefrom, said central walls being
5 disposed parallel to each other; and
6 said exterior body is substantially square in cross section.

1 23. (Original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein:
2 said reinforcing structure is U-shaped in cross section; and
3 said exterior body is U-shaped in cross section.

1 24. (Currently amended) The structural member of claim 14, wherein:
2 said reinforcing structure includes a plurality of planar sections and a pair of
3 opposed lateral edges; and
4 said exterior body includes a male interlocking connector on one of said opposed
5 lateral edges and a female interlocking connector on the other ~~opposite of~~ said opposed
6 lateral edges, said male interlocking connector and said female interlocking connector
7 ~~connectors~~ configured to be slidably engaged with each other.

1 25. (Original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein said high
2 strength material is selected from the group consisting of: steel, galvanized steel and
3 aluminum.

1 26. (original) The structural member of claim 14, wherein said high
2 strength material is fiberglass.

1 27. (Currently amended) An elongated reinforced structural member suitable
2 for being driven into the ground, comprising:

3 an elongated reinforcing sheet structure formed of high strength foraminous
4 material defining an open network of uniformly spaced openings there through,

5 an exterior body of water-impermeable synthetic material surrounding said
6 reinforcing structure,

7 said exterior body locked to said reinforcing structure by the exterior body
8 extending through said uniformly spaced openings of said reinforcing structure,

9 said exterior body having a length, a width and a thickness,

10 said reinforcing structure and its open network of uniformly spaced openings

11 extending along substantially the entire length of said exterior body and ~~substantially~~

12 along substantially the entire width of said exterior body for providing an impact area at

13 the ends of the structural member for receiving impacts during the driving of the

14 structural member into the ground,

15 said reinforcing structure being of greater tensile and compressive strength than

16 said exterior body, so that the longitudinal forces received at an end of said structural

17 member are transmitted through said reinforcing structure from one end to the other end

18 of the reinforcing structure.

1 28. (Currently amended) The structural member of claim 27, wherein said
2 reinforcing structure comprises expanded sheet metal with adjacent parallel lines of
3 openings, with each line of openings longitudinally off set from the openings of the
4 adjacent lines of openings, and said exterior body is characterized by having been
5 extruded onto said reinforcing structure.

1 29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (New) A structural member for use in forming retaining walls, said
2 structural member being rectilinear and formed in a cross sectional shape for continuous
3 manufacture, the cross sectional shape including an approximate spread U-shape with
4 opposed laterally extending side walls extending from said U-shape and locking elements
5 formed on said laterally extending side walls configured to be slidably engaged with each
6 other, said structural member including:

7 an elongate reinforcing structure extending throughout said structural member
8 formed of high strength expanded metal foraminous sheet material defining an array of
9 equally spaced openings therethrough;

10 an exterior body of water-impermeable material positioned on opposite sides of
11 said foraminous sheet material and in contact with said foraminous sheet material and
12 extending through the array of equally spaced openings of said foraminous sheet material,
13 and

14 said water-impermeable material on opposite sides of said foraminous sheet
15 material bonded to the water-impermeable material on the other side of the foraminous

- 16 sheet material, with said foraminous sheet material encapsulated within said water-
- 17 impermeable material and strengthening said water-impervious material,
- 18 such that the water impermeable material on opposite sides of said foraminous
- 19 sheet material is uniformly connected together through said foraminous sheet material.

ELECTION

Restriction was required in this application. Applicant elected Group II, claims 14-29, which were indicated in the Office Action as being drawn to a reinforced structural element, classified in Class 405, Subclass 274.

In a later Office Action, applicant was required to elect a particular specie of the invention. Applicant elected species I.

Further, applicant was required to determine which claims are readable on the elected species. As indicated in the Office Action of April 27, 2005, claims 14, 15 and 25-29 are generic to all species.

Claim 25 is generic to species I and J. New claim 30 is generic to species I.

The non-elected claims 1-13 have been cancelled. Applicant retains the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims.